

REMARKS

This amendment is made in response to the Final Office Action dated August 9, 2006. In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 18, 23 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC §102. Claims 17, 19-22, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC §103. By this amendment, claims 1 and 18 are amended, and claims 17, 29 and 31 are cancelled. Currently pending claims 1-9, 18-23, 27, 28 and 30 are believed allowable, with claims 1 and 18 being independent claims.

In the Office Action, claims 29 and 31 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 29 and claim 18 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 31. Thus, claims 1 and 18 are believed allowable.

Claims 2-9, 27, 28 and 29 are dependent on and further limit claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed allowable, claims 2-9, 27, 28 and 29 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 19-23 and 30 are dependent on and further limit claim 18. Since claim 18 is believed allowable for the reasons discussed above, claims 19-23 and 30 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,353,189 issued to Shimada et al. Since claim 17 is cancelled, this rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

No fee is believed due with this amendment, however, should such a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 09-0466. Should any extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 09-0466 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: October 4, 2006

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